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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know if the Government have made up their mind that no Bill can come up unless it contains the amendment recommended by His Excellency the Governor last time ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Substantially it is so, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know the reason why the Government have come to that conclusion ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The reasons why those amendments were considered necessary have been stated on the occasion of the last Bill."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if the Government do not consider it desirable to bring at least such non-contentious subjects as kudimaramat in the form of a Bill ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" We will consider the hon. Member's suggestion."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Even if contentious questions are not brought up, will the Government bring up at least questions like the Kudimaramat ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" That is a matter which will be considered."

Legislation

Appointment of Council Secretaries.

* 287 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state— 11-45 a.m.

(*a*) the reasons why Council Secretaries were appointed ;

(*b*) the nature and extent of the work assigned to them ; and

(*c*) whether they are whole-time servants or are permitted to do other remunerative work ; and if so, why ?

A.—(*a*) Under section 52 (4) of the Government of India Act, it is within the discretion of His Excellency the Governor to appoint Council Secretaries.

(*b*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to page 126 of Volume II of the Madras Legislative Council Manual which gives the duties that are performed by the Council Secretaries.

(*c*) The order of His Excellency the Governor made under section 52 (4) of the Government of India Act does not require that the Council Secretaries should devote their whole time to their duties as such nor does the order forbid them to do other remunerative work.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know with reference to answer to clause (*b*), what are the duties actually performed by the Council Secretaries now ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I presume the duties stated in the order on the subject, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I do not want any presumption, Sir. I want to know as a matter of fact the actual duties done by them.'

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is the hon. Revenue Member satisfied that they are actually doing any work at all?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I have already answered, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, the answer to clause (c) simply refers to the order of His Excellency the Governor. I want to know as a matter of fact whether they are part-time or whole-time servants and whether they are allowed to do any other remunerative work."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I do not propose to add anything to the answer, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I seek your protection. The order of His Excellency only says that it does not forbid them to do other remunerative work. Reference to that order does not answer my question fully. Part of my question was, 'if so why they are permitted to do other remunerative work?' Government may say, 'We do not propose to answer the question.' But I am entitled to an answer from the Government as to why they are allowed to be part-time Government servants."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The answer is that the order of His Excellency does not forbid them. It may perhaps be in order if the hon. Member puts a question as to what advice the Government gave to His Excellency regarding the duties of Council Secretaries and also as to whether they should be whole-time or part-time Government servants."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I accept the suggestion, Sir. May I ask the Government what advice they gave to His Excellency the Governor in this matter and if they advised him that the Council Secretaries might be part-time servants, why they gave that advice?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Notice, Sir."

Revenue offices

Abolition of search fees for public documents.

*288 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state: with reference to answer to question No. 1712, dated 14th March 1928, whether the Government have decided to abolish the levy of search fees in connexion with the applications for copies of public documents?

A.—As far as Revenue offices are concerned, the answer is in the negative, as the decision of the High Court in LIV, Madras Law Journal, relates only to the application for copies of certain orders under the Estates Land Act I of 1908.

Arms and Explosives

Issue of licences under the Arms Act.

*289 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether before applications for licences under the Arms Act are refused by District Magistrates, the applicants are informed of the reasons for such refusal and asked to show cause why their applications should not be refused; and